

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of activating autologous immune cells in vitro, said method comprising co-cultivating in vitro a plurality of dendritic cell/tumor cell hybrids with immune cells from a mammalian subject.
2. A method of claim 1 wherein an anti-tumor response is induced in vitro against a specific tumor.
3. A method of activating autologous immune cells in vitro, said method comprising co-cultivating in vitro a dendritic cell/tumor cell hybridoma with immune cells from a mammalian subject.
4. A method of claim 3 wherein an anti-tumor response is induced in vitro against a specific tumor.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of hybrids is further induced to express the dendritic cell characteristics before using said hybrids for co-cultivation.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein the hybridoma is further induced to express the dendritic cell characteristics before using said hybridoma for co-cultivation.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein said dendritic cell characteristics are chosen from the group consisting of dendritic cell morphology, dendritic cell surface markers or dendritic cell activation markers and immune cell activation properties in vitro.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein said dendritic cell characteristics are chosen from the group consisting of dendritic cell morphology, dendritic cell surface markers or dendritic cell activation markers and immune cell activation properties in vitro.
9. The method of claim 5 wherein said induction is performed using GM-CSF.
10. The method of claim 6 wherein said induction is performed using GM-CSF.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of hybrids is treated to prevent proliferation before using said hybrids for co-cultivation.
12. The method of claim 3 wherein the hybridoma is treated to prevent proliferation before using said hybridoma for co-cultivation.
13. The method of claim 11 wherein said treatment occurs by irradiation.
14. The method of claim 12 wherein said treatment occurs by irradiation.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein said dendritic cell is derived from bone marrow.
16. The method of claim 3 wherein said dendritic cell is derived from bone marrow.
17. The method of claim 1 wherein said dendritic cell is of myeloid origin.
18. The method of claim 3 wherein said dendritic cell is of myeloid origin.
19. The method of claim 1 wherein said dendritic cell is of lymphoid origin.
20. The method of claim 3 wherein said dendritic cell is of lymphoid origin.
21. The method of claim 1 wherein said dendritic cell is an isolated dendritic cell.
22. The method of claim 3 wherein said dendritic cell is an isolated dendritic cell.
23. The method of claim 1 wherein said dendritic cell is a dendritic cell progenitor.
24. The method of claim 3 wherein said dendritic cell is a dendritic cell progenitor.
25. Activated autologous immune cells obtained by a method of claim 1.
26. Activated autologous immune cells obtained by a method of claim 3.
27. A method for producing an anti-tumor response in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering to said subject autologous immune cells activated in vitro by a method of claim 1.

28. A method for producing an anti-tumor response in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering to said subject autologous immune cells activated in vitro by a method of claim 3.
29. The method of claim 27 wherein said cells are administered by injection or infusion.
30. The method of claim 28 wherein said cells are administered by injection or infusion.
31. The method of claim 29 wherein said injection is carried out parenterally.
32. The method of claim 30 wherein said injection is carried out parenterally.